Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Crime and the threat of violence have profound and devastating effects on individuals, families and communities in America; and,

Whereas, Over 24 million people in the United Sates are touched by crime each year; and,

Whereas, The threat and reality of terrorism have challenged all Americans to realize the devastating consequences of violent crime, and their important roles in providing support to individuals and communities who are victimized; and,

Whereas, Crime in America results in significant physical, psychological, financial, and spiritual effects on countless innocent victims; and,

Whereas, Crime victims in every state, U.S. territories and federal jurisdictions have statutory rights to be kept informed of and involved in criminal and juvenile justice processes, and to be afforded protection, restitution and accountability from their offenders; and,

Whereas, There are over 10,000 community- and system-based victim service programs across our nation that provide a wide range of services and support to victims of crime; and,

Whereas, In 2003, the Office for Victims of Crime within the U.S. Department of Justice commemorates 20 years of providing leadership to ensure that crime victims are treated with dignity and compassion; and,

Whereas, America, as a nation, continues to face threats to our personal and public safety, and continues to commit its collective energies to help our fellow citizens who are hurt by crime:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 6-12, 2003, as

CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

in South Dakota, and I call upon all citizens to honor crime victims and those who serve them during this week and throughout the year.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-sixth Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

M. Michael Rounds

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State